

Alaska Aviation Trade Show

(Alaska Journal of Commerce (Anchorage) (KRT) Via Acquire Media NewsEdge) May 11--Aviators and Alaska aviation enthusiasts flocked to the 11th annual Alaska State Aviation Trade Show and Conference at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport to see what's new in the industry and to visit friends from throughout the state.

The May 3-4 show was the biggest yet, according to Alaska Airmen's Association officials, with more than 20,000 people attending, said Dee Hanson, executive director for the Alaska Airmen's Association.

The largest single gathering was on May 4, with the raffle of a Piper PA-18 Super Cub rebuilt by Dan's Aircraft.

This year's aircraft raffle winner was Mel Sheppard from Anchorage. Sheppard will receive the \$125,000 Bush plane for his winning \$50 ticket, picked by last year's Cubcrafters Sport Cub winner George Carley.

The AAA-hosted event even enticed Gov. Sarah Palin and her new son, Trig, to the floor on Saturday.

"I had never met the governor before," Hanson said. "She is a real nice Alaskan lady."

Palin showed up with an entourage of staffers. Her daughter, Piper, named after the legendary Piper Cub, held baby Trig while her governor-mama ceremoniously signed Senate Bill 249, legislation that approves funding for a Capstone **Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) program**.

Palin sponsored and introduced the bill Jan. 25. It provides Alaska airplane owners the opportunity to use a new low-interest revolving loan program to purchase Capstone-like avionics equipment for their aircraft.

The technology was tested in Alaska and was formally called the Capstone Safety Project.

ADS-B is a data link that uses ultra-high frequency radio to send and receive information about other aircraft that uses the technology. Along with multi-function screens and air traffic displays, the equipment also gives pilots graphical weather information, terrain maps and flight information, including temporary flight restrictions and notices to airmen. ADS-B is nearly 10 times more accurate than radar and operates in real time.

The \$4.8 million loan program for installation is offered through the state Department of Community, Commerce and Economic Development.